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sporadic type where the child goes to bed healthy and wakes up paralyzed. On the other hand, I have seen it persist for weeks, long after the fever has disappeared and the child is, in other ways, convalescing and the paralyzed muscles already recovering.

(*To be continued.*)

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## THE ARMY NURSE CORPS

By ISABEL McISAAC, R.N.

(Concluded from page 176)

THE foreign tour of service covers two years in the Philippine Islands and is much desired by most nurses, for while the tropical climate may be trying, the opportunities for travel constitute an alluring attraction and requests occur for a second or third tour. It is a current saying that most of the nurses in the Islands prudently save their money to enable them to visit China and Japan before returning to the United States, which, taken altogether, is a liberal education.

Beside the regular tour of service, there are not infrequent special details, such as service on a troop-ship transferring soldiers from Alaska, the service at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, when thousands of soldiers were assembled on the Mexican frontier in 1911, and transport duty in June, 1912, when the *Buford* went to the relief of the refugees on the west coast of Mexico.

It seems a pity that among all of the hundreds of nurses who have come and gone to the Philippines none has related her varied experiences by pen. To hear a group of the older ones in the service exchanging reminiscences is like reading Stevenson's tales of adventure which relegate the safe and certain routine of prosaic every-day life into the background.

The nursing care of a sick soldier varies little from the nursing of the sick civilian, but the army hospital and the civil hospital are widely different in the methods of their administration, and in some points each might borrow from the other to advantage. Military methods and discipline are not acceptable to many persons, including some nurses, and when the latter arrive in the army hospital they give more trouble and annoyance than in the civil institutions.

There are several questions which are commonly asked about the Army Nursing Service:

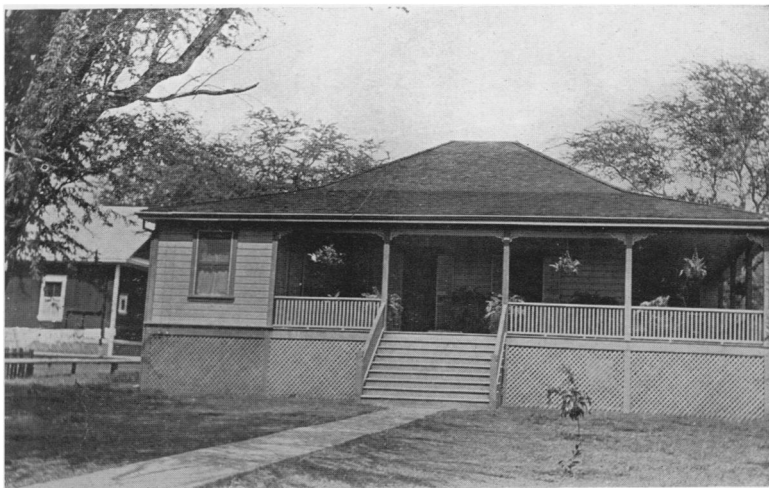
"Is the work harder than in civil hospitals?" All things considered, not as hard. Chief nurses and head nurses do not have the classes and lectures (and lecturers) which in training schools usually deprive them of much leisure and all peace of mind. The hours of duty are,



LIVING ROOM, NURSES' QUARTERS, WALTER REED HOSPITAL, TAKOMA PARK, D. C.



NURSES' QUARTERS, PRESIDIO, SAN FRANCISCO.



NURSES' QUARTERS, FT. SHAFTER, HONOLULU.



LETTERMANN GENERAL HOSPITAL, PRESIDIO. SAN FRANCISCO BAY LIES BEHIND THE BUILDINGS. THE DIM OUTLINE OF MOUNTAINS IS NEAR THE GOLDEN GATE.

except for occasional interferences, not as long nor as "rushing" as in the civil hospitals.

"How long do the nurses usually remain in the service?" A great many do not stay after the first period; but there are still nine nurses in the service who entered as contract nurses during the Spanish-American War, before the Corps was established.

"Do many nurses ask for reappointment after discharge?" There are thirty nurses in the Corps who are serving upon reappointments, which may be considered a significant comment upon the desirability of the service.

"What type of nurses are most desirable for the Army Nursing Service?" The very best, mentally, morally, and physically.

"What type of nurses are considered undesirable for army nursing?" The young women who lack home training, the training which enables them to compel respect at all times and places; those who lack proper hospital training; and the nurse who cannot adjust herself to a small post and do her part in making a comfortable household. The selfish, uninteresting woman is a trial in any place, but when shut up in a small isolated station she is an unmitigated calamity to her associates.

To a nurse of good executive ability the position of chief nurse gives a valuable experience which enables her to advance in her profession; to a nurse who shrinks from the responsibility of executive work, and at the same time finds private duty too hard physically, or one who prefers the regularity of hospital work to the wear and tear of private duty, the Army Nursing Service offers advantages of salary, standards of living, travel, and experience not found elsewhere. The service, like every other branch of nursing or other occupations, is not without its trials, but it has compensations far above many others.

The enrolled Red Cross nurses constitute the Reserve of the Army Nurse Corps and in time of war or other emergency may with their own consent be assigned to active duty.

To the older nurses who recall the unhappy confusion of former experiences when a great body of zealous but untried nurses were suddenly called out in time of war, the fact that we have 3500 enrolled Red Cross nurses, gives a comfortable assurance of better service in the future. The next step which would greatly improve the plan would be for a certain number of Red Cross nurses, according to the number enrolled from every state, to be admitted to the Army Nurse Corps for a three-year period, and thus in time we would have in all parts of the country nurses well fitted for service in time of war or other disaster.

[NOTE.—In the first instalment of this article, December JOURNAL, page 172, the statement was made that the army numbers "about 87,000 men." This should read "about 82,000."—I. McI.]